

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 H-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 AID-01
SSO-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MPOWENS/BFC
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
EA/VLC:SLYNE
EA/TIMBS:HMEINHEIT
EA/VLC:EFMCWILLIAMS

-----018904 092236Z /73

O R 092126Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 1021
DOD
SECAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL MONTGOMERY VISIT TO LAOS

REF: 1) VIENTIANE 831 2) VIENTIANE 834 3) VIENTIANE 848
4) STATE 200617

1. CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY'S OFFICE HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE EMBASSY'S OUTLINE SCHEDULE PROVIDED REFTEL 3. EMBASSY SHOULD PROCEED TO REQUEST APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS FOR DELEGATION.

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2. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED DURING CONVERSATION WITH MONTGOMERY AUGUST 8, WHICH CHARGE MAY DRAW ON IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS CONVEYED REFTEL 2:

--CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT LAO GOVERNMENT IS AMENABLE TO CODEL VISIT.

--WITH REGARD TO CODEL'S INTERESTS WHILE IN LAOS, MONTGOMERY REITERATED DELEGATION'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ISSUES AFFECTING US-LAO RELATIONS.

--IN THIS CONNECTION, MONTGOMERY REAFFIRMED DELEGATION'S INTEREST IN DISCUSSING MIA ISSUE, AND SAID HE HOPED LAO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING RESULTS OF

THEIR SEARCH EFFORTS. MONTGOMERY NOTED IN THIS REGARD OBVIOUS FAVORABLE IMPACT RETURN OF REMAINS WOULD HAVE ON CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

--MONTGOMERY NOTED DELEGATION INTEREST IN RECENT HUMANITARIAN AID DONATION OF 10,000 MT OF RICE.

--DELEGATION WOULD ALSO WELCOME DISCUSSIONS ON ANY ISSUE AFFECTING OUR TWO COUNTRIES LAO GOVERNMENT WOULD CARE TO RAISE.

3. ON AUGUST 9, LAO CHARGE ASKED US TO INQUIRE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT IN VIENTIANE TO DETERMINE IF THE LPDR WILL REQUIRE THE MEMBERS OF CODEL MONTGOMERY TO OBTAIN VISAS OR WHETHER VISA REQUIREMENT CAN BE WAIVED. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT SINCE L975, VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL US DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN WAIVED. (FYI: ANTICIPATING THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE PROCEDURE FOR THIS CODEL, THE LAO
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EMBASSY REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO WAIVE VISA REQUIREMENTS BUT RECEIVED AN UNCLEAR RESPONSE FROM LAO MFA WHICH INDICATED THAT VISAS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM BUT NOT EXPLICITLY STATING WHETHER LAO EMBASSY HERE WAS TO ISSUE THEM OR WHETHER VISA REQUIREMENT WAS BEING WAIVED.) REQUEST EMBASSY ASK MFA IF VISAS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERS OF MONTGOMERY CODEL, NOTING THAT IN SIMILAR INSTANCES VISA REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN WAIVED.

4. WITH REGARD TO AIRCRAFT, MONTGOMERY IS AGREEABLE TO ARRANGEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE EMPLOYED FOR WOODCOCK VISIT. AIRCRAFT NOW PLANS TO DEPART VIENTIANE FOR BANGKOK AFTER DROPPING OFF DELEGATION AND RETURN TO VIENTIANE AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. HOWEVER, SHOULD LAO VOLUNTEER TO HAVE AIRCRAFT REMAIN IN VIENTIANE DURING VISIT, MONTGOMERY WOULD FIND THIS ACCEPTABLE AS WELL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE201572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPOWENS/BFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780326-0760
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780881/aaaacptn.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07d7ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 VIENTIANE 831, 78 VIENTIANE 834, 78 VIENTIANE 848
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1788573
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MONTGOMERY VISIT TO LAOS
TAGS: OREP, (MONTGOMERY, G V)
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07d7ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014